

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Brassart et al.

ATTY DOCKET NO.: P99,2625

SERIAL NO: 09/445,796

GROUP ART UNIT: Unknown

FILED: December 10, 1999

EXAMINER: Unknown

INVENTION: "ABSORPTION OF MINERALS BY INTESTINAL CELLS"

OPTIONAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration in the above-identified application. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

[X] Within three months (1) of filing date of a national application; (2) of date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last. (No fee is required.)

[] After the mailing date of a first Office Action but before (1) mailing of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113; or (2) mailing of a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.

[] Payment of the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) accompanies this submission; or

[] The certification specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is made below. (No fee is required.)

[] After the mailing of (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113; or (2) notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311 whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee. The certification specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is made below. The Commissioner hereby is petitioned to consider the Information Disclosure Statement accompanying this submission. Payment for the Petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) accompanies this submission.

[] The undersigned counsel for applicant(s) hereby certifies each item of information identified in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

[] The undersigned counsel for applicant(s) hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

[] A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover any required fee is enclosed.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 08-2290. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for this purpose.*

Very respectfully,

HILL & SIMPSON

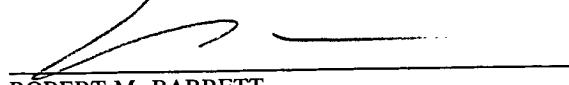
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When phoning re this application,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 February 4 2000.


ROBERT M. BARRETT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicants request that a citation and examination of the references identified below and on the attached PTO-1449 form, copies of which are enclosed herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, be made during the course of examination of the above-mentioned application for United States Patent.

Foreign Patent Documents

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Date</u>
2 443 247	France	July 4, 1980
0 457 539 A1	Europe	November 21, 1991
0 577 904 A1	Europe	January 12, 1994

Other References

Rasic et al., "Fermented Fresh Milk Products, Volume 1: Yoghourt, Scientific Grounds, Technology, Manufacture, and Preparations," pp 113-116, 1978.

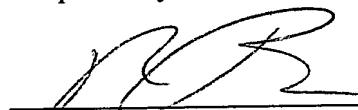
Yaeshima, T., "Benefits of Bifidobacteria to Human Health," Bulletin of the International Dairy Federation, No. 313, pp. 36-42, XP002052237, 1996.

REMARKS

The above-identified references were cited in the Preliminary Examination Report for the corresponding PCT application. A copy of the Preliminary Examination Report is enclosed.

Applicants look forward to early and favorable consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. No. 30,142)

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ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on **February 4, 2000**.

